

**ISTEP+ Social Studies Item Sampler
(Beginning in Spring 2009)**

Purpose

The purpose of this Item Sampler is to provide teachers and students with examples of the different types of questions that will appear on the ISTEP+ Social Studies assessments. The types of questions will include: multiple choice, constructed response, and extended response.

Constructed Response (CR) and Extended Response (ER) Items

Both constructed response and extended response items will require higher-level thinking. The extended response items may be slightly more complex than the constructed response items and generally will take students longer to respond.

March Assessment (Applied Skills)

Grade 5 Content Themes

- Early Cultures and Historic Indian Groups
- European Exploration and Settlement
- Interaction between Native American Indians and Europeans
- Adaptation and Alteration of the Physical Environment
- Citizenship: Roles and Responsibility
- Trade and Supply and Demand

Grade 7 Content Themes

- Early Civilizations and World Religions
- International Organizations and Forms of Government
- Resources and Geographic Limitations
- Standard of Living and International Trade

April/May Assessment (Multiple Choice)

Grade 5:

- Grade 5 content
- Any Grade 5 and Grade 4 indicators that focus on skills rather than historical knowledge.

Grade 7:

- Grade 7 content
- Any Grade 7 and Grade 6 indicators that focus on skills rather than historical knowledge.

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Rubrics for Constructed Response and Extended Response Items

The Scoring Rubrics for the CRs and ERs were developed in such a way as to score items holistically and report students' scores accurately. Previous ISTEP+ rubrics (in other content areas) were more analytic in nature and did not always allow for the scoring of student responses in a holistic manner. For each CR and ER item, students will receive a score for the content being assessed.